

**FLORENCE W. BUSKIRK.**

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JANUARY 27, 1897.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. KIRKPATRICK, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

**REPORT.**

[To accompany S. 619.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 619) granting an increase of pension to Florence W. Buskirk, having considered the same, respectfully report:

A similar bill was introduced in the Fifty-third Congress, referred to the Committee on Pensions, examined, reported favorably, and passed the Senate.

The facts are as follows:

Mr. Buskirk when very young went into the Forty-ninth Regiment of Indiana Volunteers in the war for the Union, and made an excellent record as a soldier. He was corporal of his company. After his discharge from the Army in 1863, on account of disabilities incurred in the service and in the line of duty, he studied law, and rapidly rose to the head of his profession at Bloomington, Ind. He became one of the best lawyers of the age, although always infirm on account of his army services. Some four or five years before his death his health entirely broke down and he became utterly helpless. He was pensioned by the Department on account of total disability incurred in the service and in the line of duty, at the full rate of \$72 per month. For nearly four years he was unable to walk a single step, or to dress or undress himself, or to use his hands to convey food to his mouth. In this condition his wife, who now survives him, nursed him as a woman would an infant child. All that remained of him was his clear mind, while every want of his body had to be cared for by others. Mrs. Buskirk devoted herself to his care and support without a day's intermission, and hardly an hour's, for more than three years and a half prior to his death. She was left destitute when he died, and his pension ceased, and she is placed on the roll as his widow on a pension of \$8 per month. She has neither property nor income except this small pension.

In view of these exceptional facts and circumstances, your committee recommend the passage of the bill.